

Message Text

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PAGE 01 PONTA 00277 021825Z

53

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INFO AMEMB LISBON

COMUSFORAZ TERCEIRA AZ

C O N F I D E N T I A L 277

EO 11652 GDS

TAGS PINT CMM PO

SUBJ: CLN PPD RPT PPD VIEWS OF AZOREAN SEPARATIST MOVEMENT

1. (C) JOAO BOSCO MOTA AMARAL CMM PPD RPT PPD AZOREAN CONSTITUENT ASSEMBLY DEPUTY, AND JOAO PAIVA, LOCAL PD RPT PPD LEADER, TOLD ME THAT

PPD NOW BELIEVES THAT EIGHTY PERCENT OF AZOREANS FAVOR INDEPENDENCE. THEY SAID THAT SUPPORT FOR INDEPENDENCE HAS GROWN MARKEDLY IN LAST TWO

WEEKS. MOTA AMARAL CHECKED SOURCES WITHIN SEVERAL LOCAL FACTORIES AND

FOUND CONSIDERABLE SUPPORT OF WORKERS FOR INDEPENDENCE. NATIONAL PPD LEADERS VISITED AZORES TO EXAMINE SITUATION FIRST HAND. PARTY FAVORS ASKING GOP TO HOLD REFERENDUM IN AZORES ON INDEPENDENCE QUESTION, BUT LEADERS REALIZE THAT GOP WOULD NOT ACCEPT SUCH A PROPOSAL. PAIVA AND MOTA AMARAL EXPRESSED CONCERN THAT AZOREAN SITUATION MOVING SO FAST

PAGE 2 RUDOVAA6191 C O N F I D E N T I A L

THAT IT IS ESCAPING CONTROL OF POLITICAL PARTIES. PGH

2. (C) MOTA AMARAL BELIEVES THAT NO PROVOCATION IS NECESSARY TO TRIGGER

INDEPENDENCE, IT IS SUFFICIENT THAT "TROIKA" REMAIN IN POWER IN LISBON.

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PAGE 02 PONTA 00277 021825Z

PAIVA AND MOTA AMARAL BELIEVE DECLARATION OF INDEPENDENCE MAY FIRST

OCCUR ON TERCEIRA. THEY SAID PPD COULD WORK WITH FLA WHERE INTERESTS
AND
POSITIONS OF TWO GROUPS DOVETAIL. MOTA AMARAL STRESSED THAT INDEPENDENCE
WOULD NOT MEAN A RETURN TO PRE-APRIL TWENTY FIVE SITUATION AND THAT P
PD
FAVORS REFORM, NOT REVOLUTION. HE ADDED THAT WESTERN COUNTRIES COULD
NOT
IMMEDIATELY RECOGNIZE AZOREAN INDEPENDENCE FOR FEAR OF APPEARING
IMPERIALISTIC.
BEST STRATEGY WOULD BE FOR INDEPENDENCE TO BE RECOGNIZED BY FRELIMO IN
MOZAMBIQUE AND BY CHINESE WHO WOULD SEE AZOREAN INDEPENDENCE AS BLOW
TO
SOVIETS. THEN WESTERN COUNTRIES COULD RECOGNIZE AZORES WITHOUT
DIFFICULIES.
HITCH IS THAT IT IS DIFFICULT FOR AZOREANS TO CONTACT FRELIMO AND CHINESE
REPRESENTATIVES.
3. (C) PAVIA SAID SOME PEOPLE SUGGESTED FOR JUNTA GOVERNATIVA FOR AZORES
MIGHT NOT BE WILLING TO SERVE SINCE THERE WERE NO GUARANTEES THAT JUNTA
WOULD HAVE RESOURCES NEEDED TO DO JOB. PPD WAS NOT TELLING MEMBERS HOW
TO RESPOND TO INVITATION TO SERVE, BUT SOME FEAR THAT SERVING ON JUNTA
WOULD BURN THEM POLITICALLY. (NOTE: IN SUBSEQUENT CONVERSATION, MILITARY
GOVERNOR HINTED THAT HE HAD ENCOUNTERED REFUSALS TO SERVE ON JUNTA.) P
A
AND MOTA AMARAL THINK JUNTA GOVERNATIVA AND AZOREAN AUTONOMY ARE CONCERNED
WHOSE TIME MAY HAVE ALREADY PASSED. PGH

PAGE 3 RUDOVAA6191 C O N F I D E N T I A L

4. (C) COMMENT: WE TEND TO AGREE WITH PPD'S ESTIMATE OF SUPPORT FOR
INDEPENDENCE. FURTHERMORE, INDEPENDENCE IS LIKELY IF GOP WERE TO BECOME
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PAGE 03 PONTA 00277 021825Z

COMMUNIST, BUT WE BELIEVE IT IS MUCH LESS LIKELY IN SITUATION SHORT OF
COMMUNIST TAKEOVER OF PORTUGAL OR STRONG PROVOCATION FROM LISBON. IT
NOW
APPEARS THAT MAGALHAES IS INVITING INDIVIDUALS SUGGESTED BY PPD AND
OTHER DEMOCRATIC PARTIES TO SERVE ON JUNTA GOVERNATIVA. THIS SEEMS TO
BE
FURTHER INDICATION OF CONCILIATORY POLICY GENERALLY FOLLOWED BY GOP

SINCE JUNE SIX DEMONSTRATIONS.
PFEIFLE
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